

Tower Grove Park Shelter Twenty-eight
(Lily Pond Summerhouse)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-S

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
46S-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
465-TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER TWENTY-EIGHT
(Lily Pond Summerhouse)

Location: 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelter is located 400' south of the north gate at Tower Grove and Magnolia Avenues and lies at the east edge of the central cross drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738790.4276560

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Present Use: Public picnic shelter.

Significance: The structure is a well-preserved example of one picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Summer 1872 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p.172, builders' payment 7/3/1872).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Comp. 1868, p.172, payment for plans and specifications of summer house, 6/6/72). For biographical information see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of St. Louis. For further descriptions of the property, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Beck and Cox received \$576 for building the shelter (Comp. 1868, p.176, 7/3/72). The iron ridge ornament for the roof came from T.R. Pullis and Brother of St. Louis, and cost \$18.00 (Comp. 1868, p.176, 8/15/72).
5. Original plan, construction: Built as one of the original picnic shelters for the Park.
6. Alterations and additions: Innumerable repairs and replacements of rotted elements indicate that probably little of the original wooden fabric remains.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Manuscripts, etc: Henry Shaw's Comptroller Report Books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888; Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers for 1867-1889; and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for 1869-1898 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection at the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri by the end of the summer of 1974.
- b. Deed Books: City Hall, Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley, and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Lily Pond Summerhouse is designed in an eclectic style, combining some classical features with curvilinear scrollwork tracery and brackets.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Square 17'-6" (two bays) per side, bay 8'-0" wide, 14'-4" high to apex of pediment.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Eight square wooden columns chamfered and painted black support round arches. On the east and west, spandrels and pediment above are open with saw-cut tracery. A chamfered beam extends vertically from the center column to the apex of the pediment, crossing a chamfered beam running across the top of the spandrels. There are large scrolled brackets on the west end columns. The spandrels on the north and south are latticed and chamfered. Vertical members mark the center of each arch; all painted white, with interior framing of the spandrels and pediment in contrasting color.
3. Structural system, framing: Wooden construction with columns, arches, beams, rafters, and king post in the center of the gables.
4. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The low-pitched gable roof, covered with Wisconsin fir shakes colored light green has iron acroteria in fleur-de-lys design along the ridge.
 - b. Eaves, cornice: The eaves of the gable ends extend 3'-6" and are carried on large scroll-like white brackets situated at the corners and at the center kingpost. Narrow, saw-cut corbels run under the eaves of the north and south sides, which extend 3'-6". The roof line has a thick cornice, the top bevel of which is painted red.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open plan, square.
2. Flooring: The brick floor is set in a herring bone pattern.
3. Ceiling: The ceiling is wooden tongue and groove; the exposed rafters and ridge beam are painted white.

- D. Site: The pavilion faces east-west, toward the lily pond and the central cross drive. A west pedestrian walkway on each side of which are benches and a fountain is in front of the pavilion. The site is well shaded by trees, and is 400' south of the north gate at Tower Grove and Magnolia Avenues, at the east edge of the central cross drive.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/BAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -